



Spring 2000

Utah Data Guide

A Newsletter for Data Users

Utah State Data Center
Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Demographic & Economic Analysis

CENSUS 2000 IS HERE!!!

A kickoff event for Census 2000 was held. On Friday, March 17 at the downtown Salt Lake City post office, Governor Leavitt officially kicked off Census 2000 in Utah by mailing back his completed questionnaire to the U.S. Census Bureau. The post office was lined with United States Census 2000 banners in six different languages, each containing the U.S. logo and theme, "This is your future. Don't leave it blank." Accompanying the Governor at the kick-off were local Census Bureau representatives, directors of Utah ethnic offices, State Data Center staff, and members of the local media.

The response rate to the short form is being tracked. The Governor also unveiled a large thermometer that will be used to track Utah's participation in Census 2000. The thermometer, which is located in the State Capitol rotunda, will be updated to reflect our increasing participation as a state. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the initial response rate was 50% statewide in Utah before the end of March.

Assistance obtaining and filling out forms is available. The Census 2000 questionnaires were mailed out nationwide the week of March 13. Households were mailed questionnaires in one of six languages, in response to the advance letter that was sent out a week before the questionnaires. There are several ways to get help from the Census Bureau if a household did not receive a census questionnaire in the mail, or requires assistance in filling out the form.

Questionnaire Assistance Centers are now open. Households that did not receive a form in the mail, or did not receive a visit by a local enumerator (rural areas of the state), can pick up a blank copy of the questionnaire at any one of Utah's 224 Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QACs). Volunteers will be on hand at these sites to assist those with any questions about the form. A complete list of statewide QACs can be accessed on the Census Bureau's web site.

Telephone Questionnaire Assistance is another service provided by the Census Bureau. People can call the toll-free number listed on the questionnaire to obtain assistance with filling out the questionnaire, obtain language assistance guides, or provide their census questionnaire information. Assistance will be provided in six languages, including: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.

It's Utah's Future

Census 2000

April 1, 2000

Don't Leave It Blank

The Be Counted Program provides another opportunity for people to participate in the Census. People who did not receive a census questionnaire or who believe they were excluded from the questionnaire returned by their household can participate in the Census by obtaining a *Be Counted* form. The *Be Counted* program also allows people without conventional housing to complete a questionnaire, if they believe they were not enumerated through other methods. Unaddressed questionnaires (*Be Counted* forms) are available in containers at *Be Counted* sites

which include convenience stores, post offices and community centers. The forms are available in multiple languages and contain the same short-form questions as the mailout questionnaire along with several additional questions needed to process the forms.

The Internet may be used for submitting a form. The Census Bureau has also made it possible to fill out the 2000 questionnaire on their web site. In order to respond to the questionnaire this way, you must have received a form in the mail. Visit the Census Bureau's web site to see if you are eligible to fill your form out on-line.

For more information on Census 2000 activities visit the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov. If you would like the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to give a presentation to your organization on Census 2000, contact Lisa Hillman at (801) 537-9013. You can also read more about state activities at www.governor.state.ut.us/dea. ■

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Including People Without Conventional Housing in Census 2000

Everyone has a place in Census 2000. The goal for Census 2000 is to include everyone. As part of achieving this goal, the Census Bureau will make special efforts to include people without conventional housing in the census. People who are mobile, who may live in irregular housing arrangements, or who make use of emergency lodging are at risk of being missed with traditional Census procedures.

Why it's important. Census data help your community get funds for educational, health, and other special programs and services. Census counts also determine the number of representatives each state will send to the House of Representatives.

How it's done. In order to ensure that people without conventional housing have the opportunity to be included in Census 2000, the Census Bureau will enumerate clients at service locations such as shelters, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food vans, hotels and motels used by people who are temporarily without housing, and will mount outreach efforts to contact people in non-traditional dwellings. ■

Utah Census 2000 Time Line

March 13-March 31 - Census forms are mailed.

March 3-May 30 - Enumeration in rural Utah (door to door).

March 27-29 - Enumeration of the homeless population. Census takers visit shelters, soup kitchens and non-sheltered locations.

April 1 - Officially recognized nationwide as Census Day.

April 1-May 13 - Enumeration of nursing homes, college dormitories, prisons and other group settings.

May 1 - July 31 - Follow up for non-respondents. Any housing unit that did not return a form will be contacted via phone or personal visit.

December 31, 2000 - Apportionment counts delivered to the President and Congress.

March 31, 2001 - Counts delivered to state legislatures to begin the redistricting process.

Why Does the Census Miss Children?

The goal of the decennial census is 100 percent participation by every man, woman and child living in the United States. However, results from past censuses show that people will be missed, and a surprisingly large share of those missed are children. In 1990, over 30,000 Utahns were missed in the census, and 15,900 of those were children!

In an effort to improve Census 2000, the Census Bureau reviewed 1990 numbers in order to find out who was included in the previous census and who was not. While the results are not conclusive, they do provide us with some insights into why children are not always included on the census form.



Children could be missed because the person filling out the form did not understand that children should be listed. Some people think that government forms are only for adults and do not realize that the census needs information about everyone. Results from the census determine where federal monies go for schools and programs, such as WIC and Head Start. Local health agencies also use census data to plan and administer programs that promote the well-being of families and children.

Children could be missed because their houses are overlooked. The census misses some people because it cannot locate their place of residence. This may be due to unconventional housing situations, such as multiple families living in one house, or irregular housing units, such as hard to identify conversions.

Children could be missed because no one is sure where they belong.

According to the Census Bureau, newborns or any child in the hospital for short-term care should be listed on the household's questionnaire. A child should be counted at the residence where he or she sleeps most of the time even if that address is not where the parent lives. Everyone living at the address should be included on the form, even if they are not related to the householder.



Children could be missed because there wasn't any room on the census form. The Census 2000 questionnaire provides space to include complete information on six members of a household. Households with more than six members can list by name, at the end of the form, the remaining members. The Census Bureau can then contact the householder for any additional information.

Children could be missed because adults don't want to participate in the census. Taking part in the census is in everyone's best interest. People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal funding and valuable information for planning hospitals, libraries, schools, roads, and much more.

For more information on why children are missed in the census visit the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov, or contact the State Data Center at 801 538-1036. ■

